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INSIDE REPORT: *Presidential Talent Scout*

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak
WASHINGTON.

The surprise selection of retired Adm. William F. Raborn as head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was another sign of the quiet but pervasive power wielded in Washington today by a 48-year-old career civil servant named John Macy.

Macy was buried in bureaucratic obscurity as chairman of the Civil Service Commission until Nov. 28. Although he's kept that job, Macy's far more powerful role is working as President Johnson's talent scout.

By recommending men for high office and having automatic access to press those recommendations on the President, Macy's influence has soared—well above that exercised by Ralph Dungan, talent scout for President Kennedy (and now Ambassador to Chile).

Moreover, Macy has alleviated the dangerous talent shortage in Washington we reported in January. What makes this particularly impressive is the high caliber of the appointments.

Adm. Raborn's selection for the ultra-sensitive post of CIA director reflects the Johnson-Macy teamwork as it has evolved the past four months. Raborn was not the choice of any group. He was John Macy's choice.

Any number of famous names had been banded about Washington as likely chief at CIA replacing John McCone. Inside the agency itself there was strong sentiment for CIA's Richard Helms, a talented intelligence

veteran, rejected for fear he might not have the weighty prestige to deal with Congress and the military.

It was at this point that Macy dispatched a secret, typically voluminous memorandum to the President. Its surprise recommendation: Raborn. Macy backed up his choice with these four points:

¶1. Raborn is trusted by the military and the CIA.
¶2. As the father of the Navy's Polaris missile, Raborn is expert in evaluation of weaponry—a major CIA function.

¶3. Raborn's handling of the brilliantly successful Polaris project was a model of efficient weapons development, displaying his managerial skill.

¶4. Although Congress frowns on military men running the CIA, the retired Raborn is exceptionally popular on Capitol Hill and has the prestige to stand his ground with Congress, perhaps the most telling of Macy's four points. Mr. Johnson wants no part of a Congressional watchdog committee on the CIA. Therefore, he needs a CIA chief that Congress trusts.

The President bought Macy's recommendation instantly. Raborn (who never was approached by Macy) was summoned to the LBJ Ranch and offered the job. At CIA, Helms becomes No. 2, with a clear track to become Raborn's heir.

But the really fascinating side of this selection process is the fact that Macy originally prepared his dossier on Raborn without any specific job in mind.

Macy now has a file cabinet full of such dossiers.

For example, Republican politicians were pushing a half dozen different possibilities for a Republican vacancy on the Federal Communications Commission. Nobody dreamed of James Wadsworth, an Eastern establishment Republican who was President Eisenhower's disarmament negotiator.

But Macy did. He reached into his file and out popped the Wadsworth credentials. Armed with Macy's memo on Wadsworth, the President telephoned Wadsworth and within 24 hours the FCC had a highly respected lawyer as a new member.

Let it be added that politics is still a vital ingredient in Presidential appointments. Macy clears his prospects with Presidential lieutenants Clifton Carter at the Democratic National Committee and Lawrence F. O'Brien at the White House, among others.

But Mr. Johnson has changed his emphasis during 16 months as President. A year ago Presidential intimates heard private complaints about the lack of Texans and Southerners in office. But now most appointments come from outside Mr. Johnson's political base (specifically from California, the District of Columbia, Connecticut, Maryland and New York).

And in staff conferences, the President puts increasing emphasis on more Phi Beta Kappas in top jobs. Thus, John Macy's power is understandable.

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